



Marine Safety Information Bulletin

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NPREP Guidelines | Version 2016.1

Notice of availability; request for comments

This Bulletin serves to announce that proposed changes to the 2016 PREP Guidelines have been posted on the Federal Register (FR) for public comment. The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) has published the “notice of availability; request for comments” on behalf of the Preparedness for Response Exercise Program Compliance, Coordination, and Consistency Committee (PREP 4C). The PREP 4C includes representatives from the USCG under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS); the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) under the Department of Transportation (DOT); and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) under the Department of the Interior (DOI).

These proposed revisions constitute the first change to the 2016 PREP Guidelines (and will hereinafter be referred to as the 2016.1 PREP Guidelines).

USCG-Specific Revisions

One of the significant revisions is to the Remote Assessment and Consultation (RAC) drill frequency. The existing frequency will be decreased from one drill per vessel per year, to one drill per Plan Holder per triennial cycle. Additional revisions include allowing RAC drills to be combined with Qualified Individual (QI) drills, and adding language that states QI and Salvage and Marine Fire Fighter Providers must be contacted as specified in the approved Vessel Response Plan.

To view the proposed revisions to the 2016 PREP Guidelines, go to: <http://www.regulations.gov>, type “USCG–2017–0894” and click “Search.” Then click “Open Docket Folder.”

Comments and related material must reach the USCG by January 22, 2018.

Only those comments directly pertaining to the proposed revisions detailed in the new “Record of Changes” will be considered.